

DRINKING WATER CONSTITUENTS WORK GROUP  
October 5, 1999 Meeting Notes

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people representing drinking water interests. A list of the attendees and their affiliation is attached.

**CALFED SOUTH DELTA BUNDLE**

After Judy Heath (CALFED) welcomed the attendees and introductions were made, the Work Group heard a presentation from Stein Buer (CALFED) who described the CALFED South Delta Bundle. Stage 1 actions are grouped into bundles for the purpose of achieving regional and programmatic balance, for development of environmental documentation, for establishing Program assurances, for facilitating financing, permitting and implementation. Water quality actions were selected to address problems that require immediate work to correct but each of the actions require a degree of specificity prior to implementation. The four water quality actions in the South Delta Bundle include improvement of dissolved oxygen in the lower San Joaquin River, salt and selenium management in the San Joaquin area, improvement of drinking water quality for the intake at Rock Slough and at water diversion facilities, and assessing sources and magnitude of loads of drinking water constituents of concern. Work Groups have been formed to address these actions. Stein mentioned that the individual projects need to be coordinated to various degrees to assure overall adherence to CALFED goals, and linked appropriately to provide agencies and stakeholders with sufficient assurance that actions are properly prioritized, yet reasonably balanced.

Stein was asked if there is an opportunity to look at modeling results of Stage 1 Bundle for water quality actions and he replied yes. He also replied that we are monitoring the changes with the operational improvements that have already been put in place. When asked how fast CALFED will move on actions, Stein replied that it depends on environmental documentation required. While all projects will most likely require some project specific documentation, some major actions can tier off the EIR/S while other projects (such as Category III projects) do not. When asked the status of federal funding, Stein replied that \$60 million was earmarked this Fall for CALFED programs with \$30 million for ecosystem restoration, and the other \$30 million for other water management actions, including water quality.

When asked about the relationship of the Work Group to the Delta Drinking Water Council, Paul Hutton, the new Program Manager of the new Drinking Water Quality Program, presented a graph showing the CALFED Drinking Water Improvement Strategy which is described in the Revised Phase II Report of the Programmatic EIR/S. He explained that the Work Group is a technical group advising the new Drinking Water Quality Program and is also the working arm of the Delta Drinking Water Council. The Work Group will have functions primarily related to the categories of monitoring and assessment, source control, health effects, and treatment technology. One of the tasks of the Work Group will be to review white papers on each of these categories before it goes to the Delta Drinking Water Council. Paul mentioned that an Operations Work Group has been working to address the Storage and Conveyance issues. The

Delta Drinking Water Council is a FACA subcommittee of BDAC which will advise the Policy Group through BDAC. The Delta Drinking Water Council is expected to be formed by the end of October, 1999.

### **PROPOSED DRINKING WATER QUALITY PROGRAM ACTIONS**

Judy Heath (DHS) briefly described the list of drinking water actions developed through the Water Quality Technical Group, and the recommendations from the Bromide Expert Panel, and the Organic Carbon Workshop. Handouts listing the actions and recommendations were provided to the Work Group. It was pointed out by Judy that the Work Group has flexibility on the type of actions deemed necessary for both early and long term implementation. When asked if the Work Group was to focus only on the South Delta actions, Judy replied that the functions of the Work Group were broad and included developing the scope of actions for the South Delta Bundle.

### **SOURCE ASSESSMENT AND LOADS**

Leah Walker (DHS) gave a brief presentation on California's Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program. Assessments include the a delineation of the area around a drinking water source through which contaminants might move and reach that drinking water supply; an inventory of possible contaminating activities (PCA's) that might lead to the release of microbiological or chemical contaminants within the delineated area; and a determination of the PCA's to which the drinking water source is most vulnerable. Leah explained that there are approximately 16,000 active drinking water sources in California for public water systems, and several thousand standby and inactive sources. The resources available for the assessments are approximately \$7.5 million from the federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Leah said that \$4 million in low interest loans are available to public water systems. DHS is responsible for all assessments by May 2003. Leah described the minimum components of Drinking Water Source Assessments. A copy of the summary of her presentation is attached.

Bruce Agee (DWR) described the DWR Municipal Water Quality Investigation's Data Assessment Project. The purpose of the Project is to describe existing conditions for drinking water quality in the Delta, to identify trends related to seasonality and/or hydrological conditions, to identify data gaps, and to determine the suitability of the data for evaluating CALFED actions. During Phase I, the work has included the preparation of time series, seasonal statistics, cumulative probability statistics, and hydrographic statistics for all 12 station x 5 parameter combinations. Phase 2 is intended to extend the basic work from Phase I. Data will be evaluated beyond the analysis conducted in Phase I (e.g. modeling, artificial neural networks, other statistical analyses). A workshop is planned to review all that DWR has learned over the past 17 years. This workshop is planned by the end of the year. Bruce was asked why THMFP was not looked at and Phil Wendt replied that historically DWR used a THMFP method that did not realistically represent the amount of THMs that could be formed in a water distribution system. Although DWR changed methods several years ago, a decision was made by the team working on this project to not include THMFP. When asked if there were any plans to look at pathogens and loads of pathogens, Bruce replied that the MWQI is releasing a pathogen report which

indicates the uncertainty of the accuracy of the methodology used. He indicated that the new Method 1623 is being evaluated for future use. Dan Otis (MWQI) cautioned against using the term baseline indicating that there are different baselines for wet vs dry years for different locations. There may be many different baselines to consider. A summary of Bruce's presentation is attached.

Elaine Archibald (CUWA) addressed CUWA's recommendation for intermediate source water targets for bromide and TOC, and proposed recommendations for long-term and intermediate targets for TDS. She reminded the meeting participants that CALFED has committed to continuous improvement in water quality and has adopted long-term targets for TOC and bromide. CUWA is recommending intermediate targets as a method of determining if continuous improvement in water quality is being obtained. The intermediate targets are based on CUWA's expert panel's opinion on future drinking water regulations. CUWA has just recently completed an analysis of TDS and will soon be sending a letter to CALFED with recommendations on TDS targets. The TDS targets are needed to allow groundwater recharge and recycling programs to operate. Without improvements in TDS in Delta waters, CALFED's conjunctive use and recycling goals will be unachievable. She stressed that meeting the water quality targets in the Delta is only one method of achieving the public health protection goal. The public health protection goal could be met by advances in treatment technology, blending of higher quality source waters with Delta water, or improving Delta water quality. Elaine handed out a copy of a letter from CUWA to Lester Snow that provides more detail on CUWA's recommendations on bromide and TOC. She was asked for her opinion on whether UV disinfection would allow water agencies treating Delta water to meet drinking water standards without improvements in Delta water quality. She stated that UV disinfection may be the answer for some smaller utilities but it may not be the answer for the larger utilities, such as MWD which has treatment plants up to 750 MGD. Byron Buck added that UV disinfection will not be able to solve the salinity problem. Paul Hutton informed the group that CALFED will be contracting with a consultant to develop a white paper on water treatment issues and regulations.

### **PROCESS TO MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS**

Bonnie Nixon (Public Affairs Management) led the discussion on the selection criteria for drinking water actions and the functions of the Work Group. With little modification, consensus was received. The following is the outcome of the discussion:

#### **Selection Criteria for Drinking Water Quality Actions:**

- Seriousness of the health risk and other problems (e.g. taste and odor) to be addressed by the proposed action.
- Degree to which the problem and solutions are understood. This recognizes that studies may be needed to investigate and identify problems and solutions.
- Likelihood of the proposed solution reducing impairment of beneficial uses.
- Availability of a willing and competent lead implementing entity.
- Timeframe in which the benefits of the action can be realized and measures.
- Benefits and costs of the action in relation to other proposed actions.

- Funds and ability to leverage CALFED funds by partnerships with other entities and funding sources, including existing sources of CALFED agency funds.
- Level of environmental documentation and permits required.
- Compliance with CALFED solution principles.
- Compliance with Delta Protection, CVPIA and other laws and statutes governing water quality and supply in the Delta.
- Amount of local involvement (want local involvement to help design and sustain projects).
- Design and development of an adequate monitoring program.
- Tie-in to the goals and objectives of the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program.
- Compatibility with other CALFED program elements.

Functions of the Work Group:

- Review and rank studies or projects
- Track progress
- Assure that the schedule is met
- Provide technical guidance to implementing entities
- Integrate with and advise the CALFED Delta Drinking Water Council and the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program
- Assist in outreach - ensures progress reports on studies and projects get disseminated to stakeholders.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

The Drinking Water Constituents Work Group requested the following items be acted upon at the next meeting:

1. Focus attention on the development of the early implementation action to Assess Sources and Magnitudes of Loads. (This item is the focus of the agenda at the next Work Group meeting on October 19, 1999).
2. Receive updates on related activities and programs such as CMARP, Veale/Byron Tract drainage management, Salinity/Selenium drainage management, Operations Group (modeling). (These ongoing activities and programs have been given time on the October 19 agenda for discussion and the appropriate representatives have been contacted. In addition, representatives from the Coordinated Monitoring Program, the Sacramento River Watershed Program, National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA), and DWR's database management program are willing to update the Work Group and participate in the Work Group's discussions).
3. Clarify the role of the Drinking Water Constituents Work Group and its relationship to the Drinking Water Quality Program and to the Delta Drinking Water Council. (This item has been added to the agenda of the next Work Group meeting on October 19,

1999.)

attachments

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